

PROSPECTOR PRIDE

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A publication of Grant School District 3, Grant Union Jr/Sr High School,
Humbolt Elementary School and Seneca Elementary School



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Congratulations Class of 2024!

Brandon Allison, Jaydika Anderson, Aliciana Archibald, George Ashley, Landon Boyd, Skylor Boyd, Sydnie Brandon, Macy Carter, Alyssa Catalani, Laci Clark, Ryan Coalwell, Brilynn Combs, Eric Culley, Alexander Finley, Trevor Gabbard, Jasmine Hayzlett, Sivanna Hodge, Abbie Justice, Tempest Kalin, Laramie Kiser, Lavina Kiser, Porsche Kite, Sheldon Lenz, Nolan Madden, Bailey McCracken, Hailey Mecham, Zachary Montwheeler, Rolando Moreno, Scottie Nodine, Zackery Ostberg, Halle Parsons, Jamieson Petroski, Kynlee Pettyjohn, Alyxandrea Schlarbaum, Hayden Spencer, Quinlan Taylor, Talon Van Cleave, Layla Wenick, Drew Williams, Till Winegar, Morganne Wyllie

Shout Out to All Parent Volunteers!

Thank you so much to Grandma Mary and all of our parent volunteers this year that have given their time to support and enrich the lives of our students during groups, parties, events, field trips, projects etc. We greatly appreciate your time, effort, and support.

-Robyn Miller and Kristal Hansen, 3rd Grade

Trista Cox Makes a Difference...

Trista Cox has been an amazing addition to the Grant Union team. Her hard work and dedication have made a huge difference in our office and athletic program. Keeping our schedules up-to-date and accurate is a monumental effort and she has worked diligently to take ownership of this important task. Trista goes out of her way to be helpful and caring in her interactions with the students, staff, and community members we serve. Thanks for the amazing effort.

-Andy Lusco, Assistant Principal, Grant Union

Local Agencies Support our Schools...

Thank you so much to our Oregon State Police, Sheriff's Office, BMH Ambulance Crew, and Fire Departments for always being willing to show up and support our school and teams during our honkouts as we send our student-athletes off to their state competitions. What amazing memories you are building for our students!

-Shanna Northway, Special Programs Director

GU FFA Teaches Agriculture...

A huge shout out to all the GU FFA students who came and taught lessons to our 3rd grade Humbolt Little Pros. Our students loved the opportunity to learn from you.

-Kristal Hansen and Robyn Miller, 3rd Grade

Our PTA is Amazing!

Thank you to the Humbolt PTA for all they do to support our school. From helping to provide school supplies for our students, to the fun and engaging activities planned throughout the school year! Humbolt appreciates your efforts very much!

-Humbolt Staff

Kindergarten Counts Down to Summer...

A shoutout to the Kindergarten teachers for a fun alphabet countdown to the end of school (the teachers dressed up and went above and beyond).

-Marci Judd, School Counselor



Bus Drivers Support our Athletes...

A huge thanks to our school bus drivers for all their efforts to get kids and coaches where they need to be. This is all accomplished through difficult road conditions, miserable weather, tight timelines, traffic, and schedule changes. When you see one of our drivers, please take a second to say thanks. We couldn't do this without these fine people. Thanks from Grant Union.

-Andy Lusco, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Humbolt Fun Run!

A huge shoutout to all who helped make Humbolt's Annual Fun Run a huge success! Thank you to Earthly Home Natural Market for donating a water bottle to every Humbolt student. Thank you to Levi Manitsas for announcing the event. Thank you to Andy Lusco, Kalli Wilson and the GU Leadership students who helped with setting up, cleaning up and filling water bottles. Thank you to all the GU students and staff for cheering on our students. Thank you to Tawnya Reitz for all her work and help with the organization, set up and follow-up of the event! Thank you to Charissa Moulton for all her help with the Fun Run and Going For Gold Running Club. Thank you to the Prospector Booster Club for sponsoring two sweatshirts for each classroom. Thank you to Humbolt PTA for all you do! Thank you to all of the volunteers, staff, supportive families and our awesome students for all of their hard work!

Sincerely, Robyn Miller, Going For Gold: Running Club Advisor



National Honor Society

Grant Union Jr/Sr High School students Jasmine Hazlett, Emmalyn Northway, Sivanna Hodge, Weston Suchorski, Taylor Gosnell, Ryan Coombs, Ezekial Rookstool, Aaliyah Judd, Vincent Raschio, Lily Durych, Madisen Underwood, and Taylor Parsons took their place in the National Honor Society on May 8, 2024



New National Honor Society members (above) are joined by existing members for a group picture (left).



A Very Special Shout Out...

Dear Mr. Hummel and Mr. Lusco,

I wanted to reach out to you regarding one of your students. I am a superintendent in Southern Oregon and I was traveling last week through your area. I was WAY out in the country looking for a particular driveway to rendezvous with some friends for a short stay at a private ranch. There was no cell service and the directions I had weren't the best. Anyway, I pulled over after going through a gate and heard a hissing sound coming from my rear tire. It was about 7:00 p.m. and thinking about having to change a flat after driving 6 hours was not very appealing. With the tire quickly deflating, I drove a couple more miles down the road to see if there were any houses, etc. I went to the first farmhouse I could find and met a young man named Hayden Spencer who gladly came to my aid and changed my tire. Seldom do you come across a person like Hayden... He had just had his wisdom teeth out (so probably not feeling the best) and his helpful attitude in spite of that was impressive. He quickly jacked up my truck, dropped the spare and I was back in business within 15 minutes. It was like having Les Schwab on demand! Hayden would not accept any payment for his work. Instead, he demanded that I pass it on to someone else...which I intend to do. It was so refreshing to come into contact with a person of Hayden's character and caliber. After he changed my tire, he jumped in his Toyota and escorted me down the road to meet my friends (who were waiting). He wanted to make sure I found the ranch I was looking for. Anyway, he told me he was a senior at your school and I wanted to let both of you know about the experience I had with one of your students. He is an outstanding young man in my book and made a positive impression on me during an unfortunate event.

If you see him in the hallways, please let him know how much I appreciated his help.

Best regards,

Walt Davenport
Superintendent
Central Point School District 6



Above: Humbolt 3rd graders show their water bottles. Right: Students receive encouragement from GU Science Teacher and Track Coach Sonna Smith and high school students at the Fun Run on May 23rd.



Humbolt 6th
Graders Attend
Outdoor
School

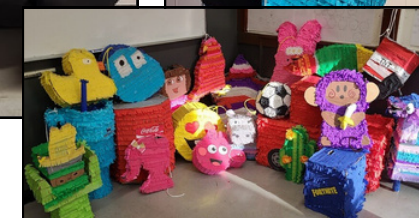
6th graders from Humbolt Elementary attended Outdoor School at Lake Creek Youth Camp, June 3-6, 2024.



GU Spanish Classes Make Piñatas...



Thank you to Mr. Teague and the GU Spanish classes for the piñatas they made for Humbolt Elementary School!



Humbolt Fun Run



Battle of the Books Team Goes to State



Humbolt Elementary's Battle of the Books team drives through the Humbolt neighborhood and past the Grant Union Jr/Sr High School during their "honk out" to the state competition in Salem, OR.



Host Families
Needed!

If you would like to host an international high school student, please call the district office at 541-575-1280.

Class of 1964 60-Year Reunion

by Beverley Ward, Alumna, Class of 1964

Growing up in the John Day area in the 1960s has left me with good memories. It wasn't so long ago really, when I was a Senior at GUHS. The Ford Mustang was introduced and Pontiac began production of the GTO hot rods, so it wasn't the "horse and buggy days." Sure, we only had a few channels on TV but most of us were able to get our first glimpse of the Beatles performing in 1964! The Rolling Stones appeared on TV the same year! It didn't matter that we didn't have a remote to run the TV. The music on the radio or on the record players at home meant lots of dancing the "Jitter-bug" steps to the Supremes, The Beach Boys, Roy Orbison, The Beatles and more--they all had top singles in '64. There was an indoor movie theater on main street that screened new shows like "Goldfinger," "My Fair Lady" and "The Pink Panther." John Day even had a Drive-In Theater west of town back then. We could go to A&W or the Prairie Maid for treats after the movies. The first Pizza place was "The Cave-In," where the Snaffle-Bit restaurant is now. There was no ordering online with a smart phone, however.

Grant Union High School had about 217 students in grades 9-12 when I graduated sixty years ago. My graduating class was by far the largest at 65 students. I'm guessing that was because we were some of the first "baby-boomers" after WWII. Nowadays, there are about 140 high school students with the junior high students bringing up the enrollment to nearly the same as it was in 1964.

Some aspects of life as seniors were much like students face today. Decisions had to be made on what training would be needed for supporting ourselves one day. This for many meant leaving our small town in Eastern Oregon and learning to live without our parents watching and coaching. Money decisions started with simple choices: in 1964, a loaf of bread was 21¢, a gallon of gas 25¢, a gallon of milk \$1.06. Who knew we would soon be real grown ups by 21 years-of-age, with really big decisions having to be made on our own by then. Some might be starting families of their own.

Most in my class of '64 didn't return to work in Grant County after leaving for post-high school jobs or schooling. The logging industry and family ranching used to be major players in the economy of the area. Now, government agencies including Forest Service firefighting and public schools are top employers. The population of John Day in 1960 was 1655 people and it is a very similar number today: 1665 people in 2024.

One of the big things that hasn't changed in Grant County since my growing-up days is the number of helpful, welcoming people who live here. When I visit my hometown, I still see hard-working people, the willingness for community service and a friendly attitude toward strangers. Coming back for my 60th GUHS reunion this summer will remind me of how the schools helped prepare me academically for success and helped develop those good values our parents started. I'm proud to be a Prospector because I had many great educators and I made wonderful lifelong friends during my school days in the district.



Bev Ward grew up in Grant County, graduating from Grant Union in 1964. She attended Eastern Oregon University before teaching in Salem, New Zealand, and Damascus, OR. She currently lives in Dallas, Oregon where she volunteers in a literacy center teaching English to adults.



50th reunion of Class of 1964 in 2014

"Thanks to Joyce Nodine, Janet Myers, Erin Beil, Kathryn Manitsas and Colleen Brady for helping with data and giving me the opportunity to share my thoughts."

-Bev Ward



35th Reunion of Class of 1964 in 1999

District Building Projects

Capital improvement projects continue to be added to a master list at Grant School District 3 even as other projects are completed and crossed off. Superintendent Mark Witty is not a new face to the district. He previously held the position of Principal at Grant Union High School for 12 years and GSD3 Superintendent for five years before moving to Baker City as Superintendent for an additional seven years. After 36 years in education, Witty retired in 2022 and enjoyed one year off before responding to the call to return to GSD3. When he accepted the Superintendent position in 2023, he hit the ground running to complete the projects already in motion and accomplish the projects he recognized would make the school district a better place for both staff and students. "It really didn't take me long to adjust, as several of these projects were needed when I was here before," Witty acknowledged.

Due to the age of the school buildings, there will always be projects going on to keep the buildings up to code, like the recent roof repairs and seismic retrofitting. A few projects may step out from behind the scenes to add security or comfort for staff and students. Both Grant Union and Humbolt Elementary are currently undergoing construction of security fencing, and Humbolt is almost done with an HVAC system for heating and cooling. Grant Union will begin an HVAC project next year, install a new PA system, and have windows replaced in stages over the next three years. Seneca Elementary is getting an upgrade to door locks and a much needed repair of the concrete steps. In addition, the district is working on a new facilities building and a feasibility study to determine the possibility for a new school building in the future.

While many projects may not be noticed but are necessary for building updates or security, there are several projects that directly affect the daily lives of students. At Humbolt Elementary there will be several exciting additions for the 2024-25 schoolyear. When students return to school in the fall, they will find their new playground in place as well as the greenhouse up and running. The chicken coop building site and chicken run will be prepped and ready as part of this

project as well; however, the coop itself will be built in the fall by the Grant Union woodshop students. The chicken coop and greenhouse are part of the Grant Union Farm Academy and funded by a CTE Revitalization Grant, giving both high school and elementary students work experience and agricultural education opportunities.

At Grant Union Jr/Sr High School, the students are no strangers to construction. A new crows nest was waiting to greet the softball team when they returned to the fields this spring, and the library space is being remodeled to create more usable space for students and staff. When the students return in the fall, they will find a completely remodeled library with a student commons area, including comfortable furniture and student workspaces. This commons area has been a group project, planned and designed by a team of students. "Students getting to design spaces for students makes it a more usable space," said Mallory Lusco, who looks forward to using the commons for her senior year. "We got to choose what we needed in a space instead of having others choose it for us." The walls will be decorated with student artwork and murals as well as a steel hanging feature currently being designed and built by students in the metals shop. The commons area will be used for students enrolled in online classes, group meetings, and for hanging out during breaks. This summer, Grant Union will also begin work on renovating the courtyard to give students an outdoor area to hang out, eat lunch, and play games such as basketball, foursquare, and tetherball during their breaks.

As Witty and his staff complete each project, the master list evolves. What never changes is the entire staff's desire to put the safety, comfort, and everyday life of the student first.



Left: Drew Williams pitches for the Lady Pros in front of the new crows nest located at the 7th Street Park Complex. Right: Students Morgan Cole, Jhett Williams, Zeke Rookstool, Taylor Palmateer, Mallory Lusco, Sivanna Hodge, Ella Carpenter, and Adalyn Judd meet with designers to plan a new student commons at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School (final floor plan shown).



CTE Classes in the Woodshop

The woodshop at Grant Union Jr/Sr High School is buzzing with energetic activity and idea-sharing. Students are working on a blend of personal and school-related projects while their instructor Marcus Teague quietly looks on, guiding them in their next steps and introducing them to building concepts along with the tools and machinery they will use.

Teague grew up in Grant County before attending George Fox University for his degree in Business Entrepreneurship. After graduation, Teague put his two years of high school Spanish and three years of college Spanish to work by immersing himself in the language, spending three months working with missionaries in Mexico. He returned to Grant County and began working for Joel Coombs, General Contractor, LLC, assisting with building projects and housing remodels. During this time, Teague invested in a couple of houses, completing the necessary remodels and repairs before selling them, and learning valuable construction and business skills in the process.

His career path changed in 2021, while working with Coombs on a building project for Grant Union Jr/Sr High School. During the course of remodeling the Special Education classrooms and adding some additional office space, the administration of Grant Union learned about Teague's ability to speak Spanish. He was asked to apply for the open position of Spanish teacher and started with that position in the 2021-22 school year. During his second year of teaching, Teague created a video game club for students after school one day a week. By applying his appreciation for computers and game technology, he created an additional opportunity for students to find acceptance and learn new skills. Between his open-door policy during lunch and the video game club on Mondays after school, Teague enjoys spending time with his students.

In the summer of 2023, Teague's Spanish classes were cut to part-time while at the same time Grant

Union was looking for a part-time woodshop teacher. It just made sense. Teague began dividing his teaching time between the Spanish classes and the woodshop in the fall of 2023.

The woodshop is one part of Grant Union's (CTE) Career and Technical Education classes. The CTE classes offer skills and training that may someday help students find their future career path. Teague is excited to help each student learn the skills they need to complete their own personal projects in addition to challenging them to use their acquired skills on projects that benefit the school and community. Several high school students were able to construct new cabinetry for the Agriculture classroom this past year to the extreme delight of Ag teacher Kailee Oliver. Teague helped the students build and install the cabinets along with a butcher block countertop, sink, and vanity mirror. They have been able to help several other teachers with bookshelves or small projects for their classrooms and assist with maintenance around the school building.

Teague is excited about the program and looks forward to future challenges for his students. He dreams of being able to remodel a classroom from start to finish or even build a house over the course of several years. Woodshop students have already committed to building a chicken house to be placed at Humbolt Elementary next fall. Whatever project comes next for the Grant Union woodshop, it will include students learning skills that will last them a lifetime from a teacher who cares about their future.



Above Left: Woodshop instructor Marcus Teague discusses next steps for the Agriculture classroom with Ag teacher Kailee Oliver as students Till Winegar and Sheldon Lenz complete installation. Above Right: Teague teaches students Garrett Ashley and Tristan Clarry to use the router table with a pattern bit.

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Planning for Summer 2024...

Free Summer Lunches - June 17, 2024-August 9, 2024

All kids in Grant County are eligible for free lunches (Adults age 19+ can purchase a meal for \$5 but must reserve ahead of time and only at the 7th Street Park location), Monday-Friday at the following times and locations:

- 7th Street Park: 12:00pm-12:45pm
- Canyon City Park: 12:00pm-12:45pm
- Mt Vernon Park: 1:15pm-1:45pm
- Prairie City Park: 1:15pm-1:45pm

Summer School June 24, 2024-August 2, 2024

Grant School District 3 is offering Summer School to qualifying students. For more information, contact Humbolt Elementary at 541-575-0454 or Grant Union Jr/Sr High School at 541-575-1799.

Preparing for the 2024-25 School Year...

PRESS RELEASE

Grant School District Board of Directors
Approved Calendar for School Year 2024-25
May 15, 2024

Grant School District #3 Approves 2024-25 School Year Calendar with Enhanced Opportunities for Staff and Student Engagement

Grant School District #3, in a board meeting held on May 15, 2024, finalized the approval of the school year calendar for 2024-25. The calendar, a result of collaborative efforts among certified staff, administrators, and the Board of Directors, introduces innovative changes aimed at benefiting the entire school community.

One of the key adjustments in the upcoming academic year involves the addition of a significant number of Fridays where staff will be present on campus. These additional Fridays will be utilized for student engagement activities from 9 am to noon, fostering collaboration among staff to align K-12 curriculum and instructional practices, and allowing educators ample time to prepare lessons for the succeeding week.

Superintendent Mark Witty expressed his appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the school staff in prioritizing student and family needs through this revised calendar. The inclusion of 12 extra days focused on student interaction on Fridays, highlights the district's commitment to enhancing the educational experience.

The John Day Education Association, in conjunction with the Grant School District #3 Administration, meticulously gathered and evaluated feedback from staff, students, and families to tailor the calendar to best serve the community's requirements. JDEA President Cindy Dougharity-Spencer affirmed that the redistribution of work hours to incorporate additional engagement time on Fridays will significantly enrich the educational journey for all members of the Grant School District #3 community.

Grant School District #3 Board Chair, Will Blood, expressed his gratitude to Superintendent Witty and JDEA President Cindy Dougharity-Spencer for their swift action in not only recognizing the need for change, but coming together to engage in discussions, and subsequently implementing such a critical change for the betterment of both students and staff. Chair Blood believes this is just one of many examples of the district's administration and staff working together to make Grant School District #3 a better place to work and learn.

For more information, or for a copy of the 2024-2025 School Calendar, please call the district office at 541-575-1280 or visit the district website at: <https://www.grantschooldistrict.org> and look for District Resources and then Calendar.